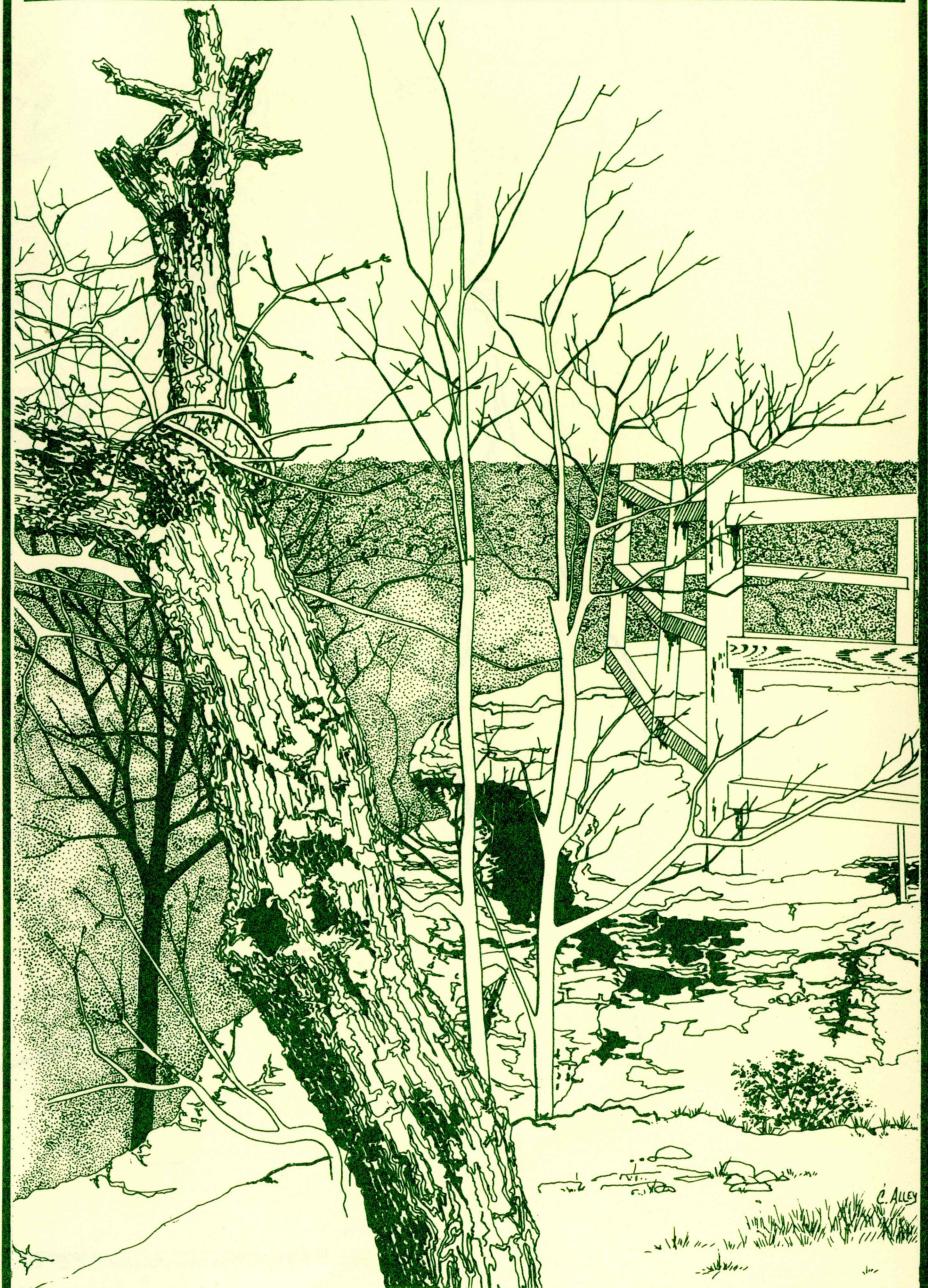


modoc
NR, Pa2
L14/s/x

dup C.2

Lake of the Ozarks State Park

TRAIL AND WILD AREA GUIDE



The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is the state agency responsible for the wise use of Missouri's natural resources.

Lake of the Ozarks State Park

TRAIL AND WILD AREA GUIDE

NATURAL HISTORY

Missouri's largest state park, Lake of the Ozarks State Park, exemplifies many of the natural features associated with the northwestern Ozarks where it is located. Though the man-made lake stands out prominently with more than 80 miles of lake frontage within the park, observant hikers will detect more subtle influences of water on the landscape.

Over thousands of years, the cutting action of the Grand Glaize Creek (now the Grand Glaize Arm of the Lake of the Ozarks) has exposed sheer picturesque bluffs along its course. Colorful columbine grows on these bluffs in the spring, and turkey vultures and cliff swallows can be found nesting there.

Surface waters slowly filtering through underground cracks and joints are responsible for creating large water-filled chambers. As these chambers were later drained by the downcutting of streams, more than 15 known caves were exposed. With more than 17,000 acres within the park, it is likely other caves still are awaiting discovery.

Rocky, highly eroded hilltops form scenic glades with few trees. An unusual array of drought-adapted plant and animal life can be found here. These rocky exposures are home for colorful wildflowers in the spring and provide miniature landscapes for the imaginative photographer. They are also home for yellow coneflowers that are found in the Missouri Ozarks, but, according to the most recent records, nowhere else in the world.

Fens are uncommon features of the park and occur where water seeping from bedrock totally saturates overlying soils. Special conditions occur on the fens allowing plants that migrated into the Ozarks from the north during glacial periods thousands of years ago to survive here today. Coakley Hollow Fen near Ozark Caverns is a designated Missouri Natural Area with a boardwalk and self-guiding trail for park visitors.

WILD AREA INFORMATION

Wilderness and wild lands provide important recreational opportunities. In response to growing demands for such areas, the Department of Natural Resources established a Missouri Wild Area System in 1978.

The Missouri Wild Area System was partially modeled after the National Wilderness Preservation System. Wild areas are protected for the benefits they provide for hiking and backpacking as well as the benefits they provide as outdoor classrooms for environmental education and as increasingly important reservoirs of scientific information.

According to the Department of Natural Resources' policy, a wild area must be a "spacious" tract of land generally 1,000 or more acres in size. Generally, it must appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and to possess outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation.

In establishing Missouri's Wild Areas System, a wide variety of qualifying areas were selected to represent the broadest cross section of the state's natural heritage. Today, almost 17,000 acres are designated as Missouri Wild Areas. Each of the protected areas is unique and you are invited to visit these as you tour Missouri's state parks.

PATTERSON HOLLOW WILD AREA

Part of the Lake of the Ozarks State Park south of Highway 42 and west of Highway 134 has been designated as Patterson Hollow Wild Area. This 1,275-acre area possesses nice stands of oak-hickory forest that provide warm blazes of color during the autumn months. A patchwork of old fields and pastures in various stages of succession also can be found. The spring dogwood display is particularly impressive.

Drainage from the Patterson Hollow bisects the wild area, but flows only after heavy rains. Small springs and seeps along its course form clear perennial pools in the streambed that are great for wading on a hot summer day. Small fish such as the southern redbelly dace and stippled and orange throat darters (males of all three species are quite colorful in spring), creek chub, and stone rollers can be found in these pools. Hikers occasionally will startle green herons that feed on these fish.

Other wildlife in the wild area include deer, wild turkey, pileated woodpeckers, red-tailed hawks, and American woodcocks.

This quiet wild area can provide a wonderful experience for those interested in observing nature or in seeking the peacefulness of a few hours of solitude.

THE TRAILS

Lake of the Ozarks State Park contains 10 trails. Individual trails range in length from one-half to six miles. All 23 miles of trail in the park are open to hikers. In addition, backpackers are permitted on Woodland Trail, equestrians on Trail of the Four Winds and Squaw's Revenge Trail, and all-terrain bicyclists on Trail of Four Winds.

A self-guided aquatic trail marked by buoys has been developed on the Grand Glaize Arm of the lake. This trail is designed for boaters interested in learning about features along the shoreline. The self-guiding booklet for this trail is available at the park office.

Lake of the Ozarks State Park has much to offer in the way of natural diversity and its trails can guide you to arid glades, lush fens, beautiful wildflowers, and blufftop vistas.

WOODLAND TRAIL - 6 MILES



Beginning and ending behind the trail center, Woodland Trail meanders quietly through the Patterson Hollow Wild Area. This area provides a diversity of habitats ranging from old fields to dense oak-hickory forests, dry stream beds to spring-fed seeps, and nearly barren ridge-tops to lush ravines. The trail is signed in a counterclockwise direction with blue arrows and has two connector trails that allow for shorter hikes of two miles or four miles. This trail is intended for hiking and backpacking use only. All backpackers should register at the park office or trail head before using the trail. A primitive camping area is located along the trail for backpackers.

TRAIL OF 4 WINDS - 6 MILES



This trail is open to hikers, equestrians, and all-terrain bicycle users. The entrance for equestrians is on the north side of the riding stables. The entrance for hikers and bikers is along Highway 134 two miles from the park entrance. The blue loop, 3.2 miles long and signed in a counterclockwise direction, takes trail users near the lake for part of its length. The yellow loop, 4.1 miles long and also signed in a counterclockwise direction, leads to an unusual rock formation covered with lichens and mosses. A boardwalk for foot traffic only gives access to the rocky outcrop that provides a scenic vista of the valley below. A red connector trail provides an alternate route that shortens the yellow loop by .6 miles. Those wanting to visit only the overlook can do so by following the yellow arrows to the site and returning by the same route following the blue arrows. It is 1.3 miles one way from the trail head to the overlook. Directional arrows mark all intersections.

SQUAW'S REVENGE TRAIL - 2 MILES



Squaw's Revenge Trail originates directly across the highway from the riding stable entrance. It is signed with green arrows in a clockwise direction. At one point, from atop a high bluff, the trail user is presented with a dramatic view of the Grand Glaize Arm of the Lake of the Ozarks. Both equestrian and hiking use is permitted on this trail. The trail is used for regularly scheduled horseback rides from April through October. If you meet a group of riders, please move off the trail, stand quietly, and let them pass.

LAZY HOLLOW TRAIL - .5 MILE



This hiking trail is located directly across the highway from the trail center. It traverses a typical Ozark hollow, and can provide a pleasant experience for those interested in a shorter and easier hike. It is signed with green arrows.

FAWN'S RIDGE TRAIL - 2.5 MILES



This trail has two entry/exit points, one approximately 900 feet from the campground registration booth down Lake View Bend Trail and the other across the highway from the picnic area near the riding stables. The trail has two sections: the southern, marked with yellow arrows, and the northern, marked with blue arrows. Both are signed in a counterclockwise direction. This trail is open to hikers only.

LAKE VIEW BEND TRAIL - 1 MILE



Lake View Bend Trail begins at the campground registration booth and ends in camping area number four. The trail meanders along the base of steep cliffs near the lake. This hiking trail is point-to-point so users must return by the same route or hike through the campground. This trail is the best in the park for viewing spring wildflowers in April, May, and June.

ROCKY TOP TRAIL - 3 MILES



This trail is located at Grand Blaize Beach and begins across the road from the picnic shelter. It features a natural glade, a scenic overlook of the lake from atop a towering bluff, and distinct contrasts in plant communities on dry south-facing slopes and moist north-facing slopes. The trail is a figure eight, each loop being 1.5 miles long. Only hiking is allowed on this trail.

SHADY RIDGE TRAIL - .5 MILE



Beginning at a picnic area near the boat launch at Grand Glaize Beach, this trail winds along the lake shore. It then climbs to a small glade before it turns west and connects to an old road that leads back to its starting point. The trail is intended for hiking only.

COAKLEY HOLLOW TRAIL - 1 MILE



This self-guiding interpretive trail begins and ends at Ozark Caverns. A boardwalk provides access to Coakley Hollow Fen, a designated Missouri Natural Area. Also featured along the trail is a natural glade, and a dam and mill site. Trail booklets are available at the Ozark Caverns Visitor Center. The trail, identified with yellow arrows, is open only to hikers.

GRAND GLAIZE TRAIL - 2.5 MILES



This hiking trail begins and ends just north of the service area between Ozark Caverns and McCubbin Point. The trail crosses a diversity of habitats and is signed in a counterclockwise direction with yellow arrows.

SIGNING

All trails in Lake of the Ozarks State Park open for public use are identified with entrance signs and marked at intersections with colored directional arrows. Occasional colored markers are used to identify trails where the route is not clear. Trail users are advised to watch closely for trail markers, especially where trails intersect old roads.

RULES OF THE TRAIL

The trails in Lake of the Ozarks State Park are yours. Please help to maintain and preserve their beauty by following these rules:

- Only hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, and backpackers, as designated, are permitted on the park trails.
- All backpackers must register at the trail head or park office before starting their trip.
- Camping is permitted only by backpackers on Woodland Trail. No equestrian camping is allowed.
- Groups of seven or more persons are permitted to camp only in designated areas. While smaller groups are not required to use the designated areas, they must camp at least 100 feet from the trail, 200 feet from any major public use area, and at least one-fourth mile from the trail entry/exit point.
- Campfires are prohibited. Stoves will be needed for cooking.
- Cutting implements such as saws and hatchets are not allowed on the trail.
- All other rules and regulations pertaining to park use are applicable to trail users.

NOTE: Ticks and chiggers are abundant May through mid-October. Be prepared with insect repellent.

THE ETHICS OF GOOD TRAIL USE

- Carry out what you carry in. If the trail users before you have not done this, you can help by removing their trash, too.
- Keep your group small. Small groups are less likely to harm the environment.
- Dispose of human waste properly. Fortunately, the top six or eight inches of soil provide a system of biologic disposers that decompose organic material. Keeping this in mind, hikers should select a spot at least 100 feet from any open water; dig a small hole no deeper than six or eight inches; after use, fill the hole with loose soil and tramp in the sod. Nature will do the rest.
- Stay on the trail. Do not take shortcuts. The trail has been laid out to minimize destruction of surrounding vegetation and to prevent erosion.

If you have any questions concerning the trails or wild area at Lake of the Ozarks State Park, please write the park superintendent or naturalist at P.O. Box C, Kaiser, MO 65047, or call (314) 348-2694.

For information on the more than 300 miles of trail and nine wild areas in other state parks, contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, or call toll-free, 1-800-334-6946.

